

# AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

PUBLISHED BY THE  
**AUSTRIAN INFORMATION SERVICE**

31 EAST 69th STREET • NEW YORK 21, N.Y. • TELEPHONE: LEHIGH 5-4120

VOL. VIII NO. 17

October 8, 1955

## FIRST PARADE OF A FEDERAL ARMY UNIT IN VIENNA.

The first parade of the units of the Austrian Federal Army stationed in the national capital took place in Vienna on September 26, 1955. Before the parade, the participating officers and soldiers assembled in the inner court of the Hofburg heard addresses by Austrian President Theodor Koerner, a former Army General, and Chancellor Raab.

President Koerner welcomed the unit as the first young soldiers of the now completely liberated Republic of Austria and declared, in part: "Austria is a friendly country and ready for friendship with her neighbors and with all countries and nations. The weapons of the Austrian Army will never be misused for the purpose of destroying peace. But these weapons will be lifted with grim determination against those who wish to disrupt the country's peace. Even the most peaceful should not and can not remain unarmed. However, the task of the Austrian Federal Army will always and only be that of defense, never of aggression."

The Chancellor also hailed the first parade of Austrian soldiers in Vienna as a striking symbol of the complete liberation of Austria. He said that the main task of the Austrian soldiers was to defend the people of Austria and their boundaries, to lend rapid assistance in the event of natural catastrophes. He declared further that the purpose of this first parade was to demonstrate to the whole world that Austria herself has again assumed guard over her territory and frontiers. Turning to the question of neutrality, the Chancellor then declared: "In its next meeting, the Austrian Parliament will resolve that Austria is henceforth to be a neutral nation. In so doing we shall be stating that we desire to live in peace with all nations and that we shall engage in no aggressive actions of any kind. However, this declaration does not by itself eliminate all danger. In order to underline our determination to be neutral it is necessary that we have a well-disciplined army, indoctrinated with the right spirit and capable of speedy action. Our people have a right to expect that the State will make timely provision for effective protection against dangers from without. This obligation can be fulfilled, however, only by the establishment of an army. Hence the Austrian Army will not develop into something existing for its own sake or into a group interested in playing soldier, but must rather be a faithful servant of the people and the State acting in harmonious collaboration with other national institutions."

Following these addresses the Vienna units of the Federal Army passed in review before the President and the members of the Austrian Parliament.

**AUSTRIAN POSTAGE STAMP PROTESTS NON-ADMISSION OF AUSTRIA TO UN.** In honor of the tenth anniversary of the United Nations, the Austrian Postal Administration issued a special postage stamp in 1.5 million copies. This dark green stamp designed by Professor Slama and printed by the Austrian Government Printing Office, has a nominal value of 2.40 schillings. The stamp shows a globe surround-



ed by a ring consisting of the flags of the member nations of the UN. In the ring there is a gap with a question mark pointing to Austria's coat of arms in one corner of the stamp.

Austria first made application for admission to the United Nations as early as July 2, 1947. On July 3, 1952, upon the recommendation of the Federal Government, the Austrian Parliament undertook to assume all of the obligations incumbent upon member nations of UN for the event of Austria's admission to the organization.

The seventh paragraph of the Preamble to the Austrian State Treaty, which was signed by the four Big Powers and by Austria, reads as follows: "... whereas the Allied and Associated Powers and Austria are desirous for these purposes of concluding the present treaty to serve as the basis of friendly relations between them, thereby enabling the Allied and Associated Powers to support Austria's application for admission to the United Nation's organization..."

**AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT MEMBERS DISCUSS NEUTRALITY.** In the course of a recent political declaration, Aus-

Austrian Chancellor Julius Raab made the following statement with respect to Austrian neutrality: "Although the principle of neutrality marks the beginning of a new era for us, we shall in the future adhere to our trusted ideals and programs, just as we have in the past. We do not have the slightest reason for departing one jot from them. As always, we stand for the great Christian ideals."

Undersecretary of State Bruno Kreisky declared in an address that neutrality is not only a political and economic problem for Austria but also a problem with respect to the attitude of the Austrian people. He warned against the danger of self-delusion on the subject, declaring that a policy of neutrality is by no means a simple policy but rather an extremely difficult one. He said that Austria's neutrality would develop into a variant between the neutrality of Sweden and that of Switzerland.

**USFA TRANSFERS 22 MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF ASSETS TO AUSTRIA.** Lieutenant General William H. Arnold, commander of the United States occupation troops in Austria (USFA), immediately before his departure from Austria, transferred to the Austrian government, in the name of the United States, all buildings, highways and installations which USFA had constructed in Austria. The units in question had been built during the years 1951-1955 and represented a total cost of approximately 22 million dollars. The most important of these elements were the buildings at Camp Roeder near Salzburg, built at a cost of 17 million dollars. This camp included living quarters for 10,000 soldiers, 16 administrative buildings, theater and movie auditoriums, a school for 700 children, a church, two gymnasiums as well as numerous work shops, depots, garages and athletic fields. Included in the transfer were 444 private apartments of which 114 had not yet been occupied although completed. Buildings in the cities of Salzburg, Saalfelden and St. Johann (Salzburg Province) and in Innsbruck (Province) and in Innsbruck (Province of Tyrol) are also involved.

As its part of the transfer agreement, the Austrian government undertook to assume responsibility for all expenditures incurred by USFA for railroad transportation, telephone and cable communications and rents subsequent to August 31, 1955, to settle Austrian claims against USFA for damages and restitution which were still open as of July 27, 1955. The total extent of these costs is estimated at 1.5 million dollars.

The agreement covering these transfers, which was signed in Vienna on September 26, 1955, does not apply, however, to the great bulk of American military equipment which was made available to Austria from USFA reserves for the purpose of building up the Austrian Army.

**EVACUATION OF OCCUPATION TROOPS ALMOST COMPLETE.** The withdrawal of the occupation troops from Austria is proceeding according to schedule and without incident. Following the evacuation of the French troops, the British Embassy in Vienna recently announced that the last unit of British occupation troops had left the country. Similarly, the former Soviet zone of occupation, including the Soviet-occupied sector of Vienna, has been evacuated by all Russian troops in advance of the scheduled withdrawal

date. In connection with the departure of the last Soviet occupation unit from Austria, Soviet Ambassador Ilyichov expressed thanks to the Austrian Government for the prompt and extensive assistance given by the Austrian Railways in the evacuation movements of the Russian troops. The withdrawal of the American troops of occupation from the areas which they have hitherto occupied is proceeding as scheduled.

As a result of the departure of the remaining air force formations of the Soviet occupying force, Austria again has complete sovereignty of the air over all of her territory. Henceforth, Austrian flying regulations only will apply for flights over Austrian territory, including the former Soviet zone of occupation. The issuance of flying authorizations is the exclusive domain of the Austrian Office of Civil Aviation in the Federal Ministry for Transportation and Nationalized Enterprises.

**CABINET APPROVES BUDGET FOR 1956.** In its meeting of September 27, the Austrian Cabinet approved the draft of the Federal Finance Law for 1956 providing for receipts of 26 billion schillings and expenditures of 26.9 billion in the regular budget. In addition to this there is the special budget providing for expenditures in the amount of 950 million schillings, so that the budget shows a total deficit of 1,850 million schillings, which amount is approximately 750 million schillings less than in the draft budget for 1955. Experience shows that such deficits can be covered by means of economies and surplus receipts.

The most important of the new outlays as compared with the previous year are those for national defense and for the expenditures arising under the State Treaty, representing a total of 1,172 million Schillings.

**WORLD BANK LOANS TO FORMER USIA PLANTS DISCUSSED.** During his recent stay in Vienna, Mr. Garner, Vice-President of the World Bank, paid a visit to Undersecretary Fritz Bock of the Ministry of Finance in order to get a picture of the economic conditions prevailing in the Austrian plants which were until recently confiscated by the Soviets (i.e. the USIA plants). The talks also touched upon the possibility of a World Bank loan for investment projects in connection with these plants, which have now been turned back to Austria. Mr. Garner paid visits to several of these enterprises, including oil refineries.

**SOCIALISTS OPPOSE ACCEPTANCE OF INVITATIONS TO DICTATORSHIPS.** The Socialist Party of Austria has laid down the following directives relating to travel by its members in countries ruled by dictators: Socialists may participate in trips to dictatorship countries if they are requested to do so or are sent by an Austrian public agency, a professional organization or some other non-political association. Participation in tours at the invitation of the propaganda organization of a dictatorship or of some crypto-auxiliary group associated with such an organization is not authorized because it is to be construed as activity in behalf of a hostile political party. Private journeys to dictator countries at the traveller's own expense are permitted.

**KAMITZ ASKS WORLD BANK FOR MORE LIBERAL LOAN CONDITIONS.** At the recent annual meeting of the World Bank which was held in Istanbul, Austrian Minister of Finance Kamitz declared that Austria is planning to join the International Finance Corporation (IFC) because it believes that an institution of this kind should operate alongside of the World Bank for the purpose of opening up new sources of capital to business for private investment. Discussing Austria's experience as a contractual partner of the World Bank in past loan operations, he supported the view that the existence of definite import requirements is a favorable prerequisite for the granting of long-term loans, saying that plans financed in this manner could, as a result of the services they render, yield the foreign exchange necessary for servicing the loan. Adding that in highly industrialized countries it is not always easy to find projects in which the necessary investment material can be obtained through import channels alone and that often production on a domestic basis might appear more suitable, he expressed satisfaction over the fact that in certain cases the World Bank was departing from the principle that loans, or certain portions of loans, must be used for definite imports.

**AUSTRIAN BOOM GRADUALLY LEVELING OFF.** The latest issue of the Monthly Report of the Institute for Economic Research indicates that the steep upsurge in Austrian economic activity over a period of almost three years is beginning to level off. Since existing capacity is being utilized, the figures for both production and employment are capable of only slow and slight increase. At the same time, economic policy is being shaped with a view to putting a damper on abrupt increases in economic activity and to adapting demand to production capabilities.

The real value of the gross national product in the second quarter of 1955 was 10% higher than during the same quarter of 1954. This would support the expectation that the gross national product for 1955 as a whole will be approximately 100 million schillings, the real value of which likewise represents a 10% increase over that of the previous year. During the second quarter of 1955, industrial production was 13% higher than during the second quarter of 1954 while the volume of trade was 14% and the volume of transportation 15% higher than during the corresponding period of 1954. The tourist trade registered 14% more overnight accommodations during this period than during the second quarter of 1954. Agricultural production is expected to be approximately 3% higher than the total yield for 1954. The import of foreign raw materials rose 36% over the 1954 figure while the increase in the consumption of electrical energy and coal was 10% and 12%, respectively.

**WORLD BANK EXPERTS TO MEET IN AUSTRIA.** Upon his return from the annual meeting of the World Bank in Istanbul, Austrian Finance Minister Kamitz declared that, with the country's liberation, it is now obvious that greater World Bank investment in Austria would be justified. He pointed out in this connection that, on the one hand, the regaining of sovereignty has eliminated various political reservations on this score and, on the other, that Austria has need of long-term investment capital at the present time. Minister Kamitz

announced that a committee of experts would arrive in Vienna shortly to study the possibilities of such intensified World Bank investment. He indicated that World Bank loans would in the future not be limited to the development of hydroelectric plants, as is the present case.

**TRADE AGREEMENT CONCLUDED WITH USSR.** The Trade talks which have been going on between the Soviet Union and Austria for some time were recently concluded in Vienna with the initialling of an agreement on trade and navigation. In this treaty both countries agree to grant each other most-favored-nation treatment in the field of trade and shipping. Agreements were also reached in the field of reciprocal recognition of the legal personality of juristic persons as well as of the nationality of commercial vessels. The treaty also defines the legal status of the Soviet Trade representation in Austria.

After the treaty has been approved by the governments of the two countries, it will go into effect simultaneously with the agreement on exchange of commodities and clearing operations which was initialled in Moscow last July.

**RATIO OF NATIONAL BUDGET TO NATIONAL INCOME FALLS.** The ratio of the Austrian national budget to the over-all national income is continuing to register a steady drop. In 1951 the budget still represented almost one-third of the national income. In 1953 it was 27.6% and currently it is only 26%.

**INDIA TO BUILD AUSTRIAN-TYPE STEEL PLANT.** At the Bangkok meeting of the Iron and Steel Committee of the UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, the head of the Indian delegation announced that his country was planning to construct a steel plant making use of the oxygen-blast steel process developed in Austria. He indicated that the initial production of the new plant would be 750,000 tons. In the course of a discussion held at this meeting, it was reported that the Austrian method under consideration had proved extremely useful and that the steel so produced was of outstanding quality and very worthwhile from the viewpoint of developing new, domestic steel industries in the Far East.

**CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY.** Austria's over-all raw steel production for 1955 will exceed the 1.5 million ton limit, thereby reaching a figure considerably in excess of the maximum capacity of 1.1 million tons envisaged after the end of the war. However, not even this rate of production will be sufficient to satisfy current requirements inasmuch as the demand for raw steel resulting from the absorption of formerly Soviet-administered USIA plants will continue to increase. Previously, these plants obtained part of their steel from the satellite countries.

In May 1956, the Austrian Iron and Steel Works (VOEST) will start operating the third convertor of its blast steel plant thereby increasing its raw steel capacity to 1,000,000 tons. At the same time, VOEST will blow in a fourth blast furnace and prepare the already existing fifth furnace as a reserve unit in case of breakdowns. During the same month, VOEST will also open up a new cold rolling mill, which will increase its annual capacity in cold-rolled sheet metal

to approximately 150,000 tons. Its overall production of sheet metal will be raised from 500,000 to 750,000 tons in 1956.

**"WORLD ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRIANS" MEETS IN VIENNA.** This year's main gathering of the "Weltbund der Oesterreicher im Ausland" (World Association of Austrians Living Abroad) was held in Vienna at the end of September, with 80 delegates from European and overseas countries attending. At the present time, the Association's membership numbers 62 Austrian societies in 12 European countries and 18 groups in Egypt, Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Peru, the Union of South Africa, Uruguay and the United States.

**INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION MEETS IN TYROL.** This year's meeting of the International Economic Association, sponsored by UNESCO and attended by economic experts from 15 countries, was held recently in the town of Kitzbuehl in the Tyrol. With Professor Howard S. Ellis (University of California) and Professor Austin Robinson (University of Cambridge) acting as chairmen, the meeting dealt primarily with questions of international migration trends.

## CULTURE AND SCIENCE

**CONGRESS OF WORLD PHYSICIANS' ORGANIZATION IN VIENNA.** The Ninth General Congress of the World Physicians' Organization, which was held in Vienna from September 21-25, 1955, was attended by 350 doctors representing more than 700,000 members from a total of 52 nations. The numerous reports delivered at the meeting dealt with the question of the physician's relationship to sickness insurance, with the relations between medical science and the press, radio and television, and with guiding principles for an international law on the admission of physicians to practice. Also on the agenda was the question of a new version of the Hippocratic Oath and that of the possibilities of preventing experiments on human beings. Dr. Karl Niederberger, President of the Austrian Chamber of Physicians, was elected president of the organization for the 1955-56 term of office.

A large-scale exhibition of instruments, drugs and therapeutic devices was held in Vienna in connection with the meeting.

During the same period, the Vienna Academy of Medicine held a special course for physicians entitled "The Fight Against Pain," featuring lectures by Professors Fellinger, Lauda and Schoenbauer.

**U.S. ADDS TO ATOMIC SCIENCE LIBRARY AT VIENNA UNIVERSITY.** Llewellyn E. Thompson, U.S. Ambassador to Austria, recently turned over to Foreign Minister Leopold Figl a specialized library on atomic energy containing, among other things, 52,000 scientific articles on atomic questions and 7,000 microfilm reports of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. Thanks to this collection, the Central Library of the Physics Institute at Vienna University now has all reports hitherto published throughout the world on research connected with atomic energy and its use.

**UNESCO DIRECTOR PRAISES AUSTRIA.** Luther Evans, General Director of UNESCO, visited Vienna at the end of September as a guest of the Austrian Government. During his stay, he held extensive conversations with Foreign Minister Leopold Figl and Under Secretary of State Bruno Kreisky on special problems of education in Austria and on methods of education in democracy. Mr. Evans declared that his talks in Vienna had left him with the impression that all countries could learn a lesson from the way in which democracy functions in Austria, adding that every nation in the world owed a great debt of gratitude to Austria for her cultural achievements.

**DIRECTOR OF VIENNA BOYS CHOIR DIES.** Monsignore Joseph Schnitt, the reorganizer of the world-famous Vienna Boys Choir, died in Vienna on September 26, 1955, at the age of 69. After the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, as rector of the Hofburg Chapel, Monsignore Schnitt organized the Vienna Boys Choir to take the place of the former Court Boys Choir, and remained in charge of the new group until the time of his death.

**SALZBURG MARIONETTE THEATER GIVES 9,000TH PERFORMANCE.** The Salzburg Marionette Theater, which has now made four tours throughout the United States, recently celebrated the 9,000th performance of the theater since its founding in 1913. The anniversary performance took place in Salzburg. In addition to its visits to the United States, the Salzburg Marionette Theater has also been on tour in Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, France, England, Norway, Rumania, Belgium, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Russia, Sweden, Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece, Spain, Canada, all of the countries of Central America, Peru, Colombia and Venezuela. It will begin its fifth U.S. tour, which is to last 5 months, in January 1956.

In honor of the "Mozart Year" being celebrated in 1956, the Salzburg Marionette Theater will offer a new presentation of the composer's first opera, "Apollo and Hyacinthus," as well as his "Magic Flute," during its coming season.

**MITROPOULOS TO BE GUEST CONDUCTOR AT VIENNA OPERA.** According to reports in the Vienna press, the consent of Dimitri Mitropoulos, Conductor of the New York Philharmonic, to appear as guest conductor at the Vienna State Opera for two performances during the 1956 season has been obtained by Karl Boehm, Director of the Vienna State Opera. It is planned that Mitropoulos will conduct two performances of Puccini's "Manon Lescaut" in September 1956.

**DANNY KAYE IN VIENNA.** The actor Danny Kaye was present in Vienna for the recent premiere of his film "Assignment Children," on the activity of UNICEF in Asia. This was the film star's first visit to Austria.

**STUDENTS FROM 20 COUNTRIES ATTEND INNSBRUCK SUMMER COURSES.** A total of 850 foreign professors and students, representing 20 different European and overseas countries, took part in the recently concluded 9th Summer Session of the University of Innsbruck. The main emphasis of the summer courses was on German literature. Lectures were also given on special historical subjects, folklore, economics, art, the theater and the development of language.

**U.S. ORCHESTRAS TO CELEBRATE REOPENING OF VIENNA OPERA.** According to reports received by the U.S. Information Agency, twenty-three outstanding American symphony orchestras are planning to pay special tribute to Austrian cultural life on the occasion of the reopening of the famous State Opera House in Vienna on November 5. The orchestras taking part in this musical salute are those of:

|              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Atlanta      | November 5      |
| Boston       | November 5, 6   |
| Buffalo      | November 5      |
| Cincinnati   | November 4, 5   |
| Dallas       | November 14, 15 |
| Denver       | November 1 or 8 |
| Houston      | October 31      |
| Indianapolis | November 12, 13 |

(Guest Conductor,  
Izler Solomon)

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Louisville                                | November 16, 17     |
| Minneapolis                               | November 4          |
| The National Symphony                     | November 11         |
| New Orleans                               | November 1 or 8     |
| New York Philharmonic                     | November 3, 4       |
| Oklahoma                                  | October 25          |
| Philadelphia:                             |                     |
| in Philadelphia                           | Sept. 30, Oct. 1, 3 |
| in New York                               | October 4           |
| Washington                                | October 11          |
| Baltimore                                 | October 12          |
| New Brunswick                             | October 18          |
| Portland                                  | November 14         |
| Rochester                                 | October 27          |
| (Guest Conductor:<br>Guy Fraser Harrison) |                     |
| St. Louis                                 | November 5, 6       |
| San Antonio                               | November 5          |
| San Francisco Opera:                      |                     |
| in Los Angeles                            | November 5          |
| San Francisco                             | November 24, 25, 26 |
| Tulsa                                     | October 31          |
| Utah                                      | November 2          |

**"1955 EUROPEAN THEATER EXHIBITION" OPENS IN VIENNA.** In connection with the forthcoming reopening of the two Austrian State Theaters (the Vienna State Opera House and the Burgtheater), the Kuenstlerhaus is featuring in its 36 rooms a display entitled "1955 European Theater Exhibition," which opened on September 20. Objects from 400 museums, libraries, archives and private collections of 20 European countries are on display. The exhibition is the first to include a complete collection of theatrical arts displays from all over Europe. It was organized on the "dynamic principle," i.e. designed to point up the reciprocal influence exerted by the various national theaters of Europe and to demonstrate the spiritual unity of the theater throughout the Western world. Moreover, it gives an over-all picture of the 2,000-year development of European theater, from the period of antiquity through the religious plays of the Middle Ages, the Renaissance stage down to contemporary times. Special rooms are

devoted to the English and German theater, the Comedie Francaise and the Vienna Burgtheater as well as to the development of the theatrical arts in East European countries. The present exhibition is the first all-European display of its kind since 1892.

#### VIENNA ACADEMY CHAMBER CHORUS ARRIVES FOR U.S. TOUR.

The Vienna Academy Chamber Chorus has arrived for its third tour of the United States. Between now and mid-December it will give over 50 concerts in the United States and Canada. It has two different programs, one including only classical and pre-classical choral music, the other made up of contemporary works and Viennese music, including Christmas motets. The choral selections will be sung either in Latin or in German.

The Vienna Academy Chamber Chorus will visit the cities listed below:

| Date              | City                    | Hall                        |
|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Oct. 9            | Arlington Heights, Ill. | High School, 600 Ridge      |
| " 10              | Hinsdale, Ill.          | Hinsdale Jr. High School    |
| " 11              | Decatur, Ill.           | Millikin Univ.              |
| " 12              | Rockford, Ill.          | Coronado Theater            |
| " 13              | Princeton, Ill.         | Township High School        |
| " 14              | Lacrosse, Wisc.         | La Crosse Voc. H.S.         |
| " 15              | Anoka, Minn.            | High School, Fifth Ave., S. |
| " 16              | Superior, Wisc.         | Superior State College      |
| " 17              | Willmar, Minn.          | High School                 |
| " 18              | Mason City, Iowa        | Mason City High School      |
| " 19              | Fairfield, Iowa         | Fairfield High School       |
| " 20 & 21         | York, Neb.              | City Auditorium             |
| " 22 & 23         | Holdrege, Neb.          | " "                         |
| " 24              | Lexington, Neb.         | H.S., Wash. & 12th Street   |
| " 25              | Brookings, So. Dak.     |                             |
| " 26              | Redfield, So. Dak.      | State School & Home         |
| " 27              | Dickenson, No. Dak.     | Teachers College            |
| " 28              | Williston, No. Dak.     | High School                 |
| " 29              | Minot, No. Dak.         | State Teachers Coll.        |
| " 30, 31 & Nov. 1 | Winnipeg, Man, Can.     | Audit Hall                  |
| Nov. 3            | Saskatoon, Sask., Can.  | Univ. of Saskatoon          |
| " 4               | Regina, Saskatoon, Can. | Exhibition Auditorium       |
| " 5, 6 & 7        | Edmonton, Alta, Can.    | Edmonton Gardn. Conct. Hl.  |
| " 8               | Calgary, Alta, Can.     | Stampede Cornal Conct. Hl.  |
| " 9               | Lethbridge, Alta, Can.  | Capitol Theater             |
| " 11              | Helena, Mont.           | Civic Center                |
| " 12              | Dillon, Mont.           | Western Mont. Coll.         |
| " 13 & 14         | Butte, Mont.            | Bow Theater                 |
| " 16              | Lewiston, Idaho         | Lewiston Sr. H.S.           |
| " 17              | Kennewick, Wash.        | Kennewick H.S.              |
| " 18, 19 & 20     | Seattle, Wash.          | Civic Theater               |
| " 21              | Port Angeles, Wash.     | Olympian Theater            |
| " 22              | Bremerton, Wash.        | Coontz Jr. H.S.             |
| " 23              | Mt. Vernon, Wash.       | High School                 |
| " 26              | Salinas, Calif.         | Salinas Union H.S.          |
| " 27 & 28         | Oxnard, Calif.          | Santa Clara H.S.            |
| " 29              | Redlands, Calif.        | Memorial Chapel             |
| " 30              | Fontana, Calif.         | Jr. High School             |
| Dec. 2 & 3        | Albuquerque, N. Mex.    | Carlisle Auditorium         |
| " 4 & 5           | Borger, Texas           | Junior College              |
| " 6               | Garden City, Kans.      | Civic Auditorium            |
| " 7               | Hutchinson, Kans.       | Richardson Auditorium       |
| " 8               | Junction City, Kans.    |                             |
| " 9               | Bolivar, Mo.            | Pike Aud. S.W. Bap. Coll.   |
| " 11              | Chicago, Ill.           |                             |
| " 12              | Beverly Hills, Ill.     | Fenger High School          |
| " 13              | Bloomington, Ill.       | Scottish Rite Temple        |
| " 14 & 15         | Mt. Vernon, Ohio        | Memorial Auditorium         |

**U.S. RECOGNIZES AUSTRIAN VETERINARY DIPLOMAS.**

The American Veterinary Medical Association has informed the Rector of the Vienna Veterinary College that it is recognizing the University's diplomas as of the year 1950. This decision is based upon a recommendation of the Committee on Foreign Veterinary Colleges, which is studying veterinary training in various countries and which for this purpose sent a group of experts to visit the Vienna school in 1953.

**KOKOSCHKA EXHIBITION IN VIENNA.** Professor Oskar Kokoschka will be in Vienna at the beginning of November to attend the opening of an exhibition of his paintings at the Sezession Gallery. The Vienna exhibition will present a representative cross-section of the artist's work during the past ten years.

**AUSTRIAN YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS OPPOSE COMIC STRIPS.** The Federal Youth Association of Austria, (Bundesjugendring) the parent organization of all Austrian youth groups, recently passed a resolution calling on the Austrian Parliament to pass a special law providing for the prohibition of comic strips. The resolution stated that the comic books, 20 million of which were sold in Austria during 1954, represent a danger to the spiritual and intellectual development of young people.

**"SALZBURG FESTIVAL STUDIO" COMMITTEE APPOINTED.** An advisory committee has recently been formed in Salzburg in connection with the establishment of a "Salzburg Festival Studio." The year-round task of the committee will be to preserve the high standards of the Salzburg Festival by discovering new talent and works suitable for presentation at the Festivals. A new chamber theater and performances in Leopoldskron Castle should certainly provide one source for new material. Committee members include such outstanding artists as Friedrich Gulda, Oskar Werner, Hilde Krahl, Ernst Heusserman and many others.

**FILM ON MOZART GOES INTO PRODUCTION.** The filming of the outdoor scenes for a new technicolor production dealing with the life of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was started recently at Klosterneuburg, near Vienna. The picture is being directed by Karl Hartl, who also wrote the script, based on a novel by Fritz Habeck. Carl Szokoll will be in charge of production and Oskar Schnirch will be responsible for the camera work. The principal roles will be played by Oskar Werner, Johanna Matz, Erich Kunz and numerous members of the Burgtheater company. The performers in the singing roles will be Anton Dermota, Irmgard Seefried, Erich Kunz, Erika

Koeth and Gottlob Frick and the chorus of the Vienna State Opera will also be heard in the film. All of the piano music in the picture will be performed by Isolde Ahlgrim on a pianoforte built in imitation of Mozart's own instrument.

**NEW ULTRA-SHORTWAVE TRANSMITTER IN VIENNA.** A new transmitting station of the Austrian Radio is currently under construction on the Kahlenberg, near Vienna. New ultra-shortwave antennas, connected with two new ultra-shortwave transmitters having a capacity of 50 kw. each, are being mounted on a 423 ft. tower. This tower will also be used for the 60 kw. television transmitter and is already transmitting daily test telecasts. Until completion of the big new middle-wave transmitter on the Bisamberg, a new middle-wave transmitter of the Vienna Radio Program, having a capacity of 25 kw., will broadcast from the Wilhelminenberg near Vienna.

**SYMPORIUM ON RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPES AT BAD GASTEIN.** The Second Medical Clinic of Vienna University is organizing an international symposium on "Radioactive Isotopes in the Clinic and in Research," to be held at the Salzburg resort Bad Gastein from January 6-8, 1956. The meeting will concern itself primarily with questions of protein, iron and electrolyte metabolism and of the life period of erythrocytes, with research on the circulation and blood volume and with problems of localized radiation therapy.

**FILM NEWS.** The outdoor scenes for the technicolor production "Die Sennerin von St. Kathrein" are now being filmed in Salzburg and Tyrol. A period of three months has been assigned for the time-consuming work of making the animal shots. This new Oefa-Schoenbrunn film will feature Rudolf Lenz, Gerda Wiedner, Anita Gutwell, Lotte Ledel and Albrecht Ruprecht in the leading roles.

Another technicolor film, "Wenn die Alpenrosen blühen," is on location at Haldensee in Tyrol under the direction of Richard Haeussler. The lead in this film is being taken by Theo Lingen.

An Austrian film-producing company is working on a picture which will deal with the friendship between the composer Johannes Brahms and the physician Theodor Billroth. Ewald Balser will play the part of Billroth in this film.

Colombia Pictures has acquired the distribution rights for "Der letzte Akt," the Austrian film about Hitler. It is planning to distribute the picture in the United States in the near future.

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OLD BURGTHEATER IN NEW SPLENDOR

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On March 12, 1945, the day on which the Vienna State Opera was destroyed by bombs, the Vienna Burgtheater was also hit by three bombs which demolished the stage, all adjacent rooms and workshops, and part of the outer facade. During the battle for Vienna, a fire broke out in the ruins of the theater on April 10, 1945, and resulted in the destruction of the entire auditorium as well as the roof.

Before reconstruction work could be started, it was necessary to remove approximately 10,000 tons of scrap iron and rubble. Practically all that remained of the old build-

ing was the staircases, the walls of the auditorium and part of the iron structural work of the boxes. Reconstruction of the theater, carried out in accordance with the plans of the architect Engelhart was based on the principle of preserving all parts of the building which had not been destroyed -- thereby maintaining its traditional appearance -- while adapting the interior to modern requirements. This assignment was to be accomplished at the lowest possible construction costs.

In its new form, the Burgtheater will be a combination

box and gallery theater with 1310 seats and standing room for 220. Approximately 300 of the seats are box seats and slightly more than 1,000 are in the orchestra and the galleries. Before its destruction, the theater had 1,256 seats (352 of them in the boxes) and room for 334 standees. Reconstruction of the Burgtheater costs approximately 5 million dollars and, as in the case of the State Opera, was financed with federal funds. The material used in the reconstruction work included: 1,800 tons of structural steel, 820 tons of reinforced concrete, 4,800 tons of cement, 22,235 cubic yards of sand, 4,185 cubic yards of wood, 300 tons of lime, 1,750,000 bricks, 57,000 sq. yds. of cement blocks, 5,700 sq. yds of tapestry, 10,400 sq. yds. of fabric and 261 miles of power cables. Approximately 400 workers were employed in the reconstruction of the theater. The work was subject to repeated delays as special courses for training the artisans such as fine cabinet-makers, stucco workers, sculptors, etc. had to be arranged.

#### **Rebuilt Theater Area Nearly 7½ Million Cubic Feet**

The area of the rebuilt theater which has been altered is approximately 7½ million cubic feet. The stage area is 150 ft. high, the surface of the stage measuring 101 ft. x 82 ft., and the proscenium arch has been increased to 40 ft. x 46 ft. The destroyed dome-shaped roof was removed and replaced by a modern conchoidal roof, the part covering the auditorium being 20 ft. higher for better acoustics. The auditorium has been decorated in the traditional white-red-gold color scheme.

The new stage is of the type known as a revolving-cylindrical stage, a modern combination of a revolving and elevator stage. Four large surfaces, 40 ft. long, which can be raised and lowered together with two sliding cars of the same length have been built into a cylinder 46 ft. high and 69 ft. in diameter, which is capable of rotation on its central axis and of being lowered as much as 23 ft. This cylinder as seen at the stage level is a huge rotating disk. Depending on requirements, therefore, the stage can be used as a revolving stage, an elevator stage or as a combined unit which can either be moved vertically or horizontally. Since all of the surface which can be lowered can also be tilted, all of these surfaces on the stage can be set at any angle desired. The 350 ton revolving cylinder rests on a concrete foundation which extends 10 ft. into the base of the stage.

The lighting installation of the rebuilt theater includes a 192-lever control panel at the stage and another in the gallery, with 60 levers, for controlling the lighting in the auditorium. Like the State Opera, the new Burgtheater is connected with the remote-control heating installation in the Hofburg and draws its fresh air from the nearby Volksgarten.

#### **Emperor Joseph II Was First Burgtheater Director**

The history of Vienna's Burgtheater goes back to the first permanent Hofburg Theater, which was established in a section of the Vienna Hofburg in 1741 "for the entertainment of the public and the court." The repertory of this theater consisted mainly of spoken French and Italian plays as well as operas. In 1776, Emperor Joseph II raised the Burgtheater to the rank of a "Court and National Theat-

er" and decreed that henceforth "nothing but good German original works and good translations of works in other languages should be presented." With respect to the selection of plays to be performed, the Emperor demanded that emphasis be placed not on the largest possible number of works but solely on the quality of the performances -- this in the interest of the effect on the public. Joseph II himself assumed the office of director of the newly established theater and in this capacity drew up the repertoires and conferred with the individual players. Once he even sent a mounted courier from an army camp to Vienna for the sole purpose of instructing one of the actors to leave for Hamburg immediately to obtain the services of one Brockmann for Vienna Burgtheater cast. Also dating from the period of the Emperor's direction of the theater is the introduction of the German Singspiel, or ballad opera, in which genre Mozart achieved success with his "Marriage of Figaro," "Don Giovanni" and "Così fan tutte." The same composer's "Abduction from the Seraglio" was so successful that the composer protested against the continual performance of his work, on the grounds that he did not want to have it "played out."

#### **Tradition of Ensemble Company Over One Hundred Years Old**

Among the subsequent directors of the theater, one of the most outstanding was Joseph Schreyvogl, who was in charge from 1814 to 1832. He laid the foundation for the artistic development of the ensemble type of acting for which the Burgtheater is famous throughout the world and through which it became the leading drama center of the German-speaking world. Schreyvogl was an outstanding dramaturgist, a personal friend of Goethe, Wieland and Herder, and the discoverer of Grillparzer. During this period the Burgtheater had already consolidated its position as the leading German-language theater. Heinrich Laube successfully continued Schreyvogl's ideals during the period from 1850 to 1867. Laube's motto was: "The ultimate goal of acting is not the individual performance but the whole result. The play should emerge as a complete and unified work of art and this can never be achieved when the individual player thrusts himself unnecessarily forward." Laube formed a compact ensemble of players whose names are still known, including Adolph von Sonnenthal, Ernst Hartmann, Joseph Levinsky, Charlotte Wolter and Amalie Heizinger. The idea behind Laube's demand was to make the Vienna Burgtheater first and foremost, a genuine institution of training. His ambition was to include in the yearly repertory of the Burgtheater everything truly classical or dramatically worthy created by German literature during the previous century, all the plays of Shakespeare and whatever Romance drama was congenial to Viennese taste. During the period of Laube's direction, the annual repertory of the Burgtheater included 164 works. Under Burghart (1890-1898) this figure was 138 and under Dingelstedt (1870-1881) 109. At the present time the yearly repertory of the Burgtheater -- including that of the Akademietheater which became associated with it in 1922 -- is about 50 works.

An interesting fact is that Laube, who left the Burgtheater as the result of a disagreement, was enabled through the assistance of friends to continue his work in the building which later became the Ronacher theater, where the Burgtheater company gave its performances from 1945-1955 after the destruction of its own building.

Shortly before the "old Burgtheater" was closed and torn down the company, then under the direction of Wilbrandt, attained new artistic heights with a performance of Goethe's "Faust" in its entirety, an unprecedented event for the time.

#### Old Tradition Continued in New House

The last performance in the old Burgtheater on the Michaeler Platz was a presentation of Goethe's "Iphigenie auf Tauris" on October 12, 1888. This was followed by the opening of the new house on the Ringstrasse on October 14, 1888, with performances of Schiller's "Wallenstein's Lager" and Grillparzer's unfinished play, "Esther". The directors were replaced more frequently in the new house than in the old one and none of the later directors held his position as long as Schreyvogl or Laube. The collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire at the end of World War I threatened to bring with it the end of the Vienna theaters which had previously been financed by the imperial court. Austria, which was now small and impoverished suddenly found itself responsible for two large and expensive public theaters which had hitherto enjoyed the most generous assistance from one of Europe's richest courts. The great and deep attachment of the Austrian people for their theaters and feeling of responsibility for these priceless cultural assets

induced the Republic of Austria to continue the former court theaters (the State Opera and the Burgtheater) as National Theaters, making great material sacrifices for the purpose.

#### Ensemble Art Still the Main Goal

As was the case in the past, the main emphasis of the theater's artistic efforts continues to be on the development of ensemble-type performances and on the development of talent within its own ranks rather than of hiring well-known stars from other theaters. It has been possible to put together an ensemble of famous players like Aslan, Balser, Krauss, Thimig, Bleibtreu, Medelsky, Wohlgemut, Liewehr, Tressler, Albach-Retty, Seidler and Wagener, to name only a few. In 1938 the Burgtheater was destroyed spiritually and in 1945 physically. However, only three weeks after the catastrophic fire in its own building the Burgtheater gave a performance of Grillparzer's "Sappho" in the Ronacher theater on April 30, 1945. The latter theater was to be the temporary home of the Burg company until 1955. The ten years after World War II saw performances of such interesting new works as Claudel's "The Silken Shoe", Zuckmayer's "Gesang im Feuerofen" and "Des Teufel's General", Elliot's "Death in the Cathedral", and Christopher Fry's "Venus Preserved." Austrian writers whose works were presented include Ferdinand Bruckner, Franz Theodor Csokor, Fritz Hochwaelder, Alexander Lernet-Holenia, Friedrich Schreyvogl, Rudolph Bayr and Harald Zusanek. The Burgtheater is headed at the present time by the directors Adolph Rott and Friedrich Schreyvogl. The ensemble includes 32 actresses and 49 actors as permanent members.

## AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

PUBLISHED BY THE

**AUSTRIAN INFORMATION SERVICE**

31 EAST 69th STREET • NEW YORK 21, N.Y. • TELEPHONE: LEHIGH 3-4120



Mr. Richard Hill, Editor  
Music Library Notes Assoc.  
C/O Music Division  
Library of Congress  
Washington, 25, D.C.